



Disaster Resistant Times

Shenandoah Valley Project Impact

Citizen Corps Council and CERT Member Newsletter

May 2006

This newsletter is published by:
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SVPI Upcoming Events

March 29 - May 10, 2006
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
CERT training at Augusta
County Government Center

May 24, 2006 9:00 a.m.
Regional Citizen Corps
Council Meeting in Salem

June 6, 2006 7:00 a.m.
Presentation to Waynesboro/
East Augusta Rotary Club

June 8, 2006 10:00 a.m.
Virginia Citizen Corps Council
Community Development
Workgroup Meeting

June 14, 2006 3:00 p.m.
Staunton/Waynesboro/
Augusta LEPC Meeting

June 15, 2006 2:30 p.m.
Presentation to Rockbridge
Area Occupational Center

June 20, 2006 9:00 a.m.
Citizen Corps Council
Quarterly Meeting

June 29, 2006 7:00 p.m.
CERT Quarterly Meeting

Information About Pandemic Influenza

There is much being said in the news these days about the possibility of an influenza pandemic. Here is some general information about what a pandemic is and how to be prepared when one occurs.

1. What is an influenza pandemic?

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population, begins to cause serious illness and then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide.

2. When will the next pandemic occur?

Many scientists believe it is a matter of time until the next influenza pandemic occurs. However, the timing and severity of the next pandemic cannot be predicted. Influenza pandemics occurred three times in the past century - in 1918-19, 1957-58, and 1968-69.

3. What is avian influenza (bird flu)?

Avian flu - commonly called "bird flu" is an infection caused by influenza viruses that occur naturally in birds. There are several strains of avian flu. Avian flu was first recognized in humans in Hong Kong in 1997. Currently, close contact with infected poultry has been the primary source for human infection. At this time, the avian flu is not a pandemic.

4. How can I protect myself in the event of a pandemic?

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in a waste basket.
- Avoid being around people who are sick.
- If you are sick stay home.
- Stay healthy by eating a balanced diet, drink water, exercise on a regular basis, and get plenty of rest.

5. How can I prepare for the pandemic flu?

Stock a supply of food and water. During a pandemic you may not be able to get to the store or it may run out of supplies. Stock foods that are nonperishable and easy to prepare in case you are unable to cook. Keep a supply of over-the-counter cold and flu medications.

Source: PandemicFlu.gov, website: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

Wildfire Safety Tips

This Spring we have been extremely dry which increases the possibility of wild fires. Here are some tips to make your home more "fire resistant".

1. Keep a clearing of at least 30 feet around your house for fire fighting equipment.
2. Space the trees you plant carefully.
3. Remove "ladder fuels". They link the grasses and the tree tops.
4. Create "fuelbreak" - - - driveways, gravel walkways, or lawns.
5. Maintain your irrigation system regularly.
6. Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6' - 10' from the ground.
7. Remove leaf clutter from your roof and yard.
8. Mow regularly.
9. Remove dead or overhanging branches.
10. Store firewood away from your house.
11. Refuel garden equipment carefully.
12. Maintain garden equipment regularly.
13. If you smoke, use your ashtray.
14. Store and use flammable liquids properly.



New Module Of *Masters of Disasters* Is Now Available

The American Red Cross announces the launch of a new module to their *Masters of Disasters* curriculum series, entitled, *In The Aftermath*. This new module focuses on children affected by a disaster or an unexpected situation in their community. *In The Aftermath* addresses recovering from these situations through lesson plans and activities designed for educators to use in formal and informal settings. With this curriculum, children and their families can help restore a sense of hope and draw upon their own resilience. These materials for grades K-12 will be downloadable for free online.

The website address is: www.redcross.org/disaster/masters

JMU's IIIA To Hold Research Symposium

James Madison University's Institute for Infrastructure and Information Assurance will hold its 2006 Spring Research Symposium on May 12, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the National Academy of Science in Washington, D.C. The topic for the symposium is: "Homeland Security: Engaging the Frontlines." There is no registration fee but space is limited and pre-registration is required.

For more information on the symposium and to pre-register, log on to the symposium's website address at: www.jmu.edu/iiia/2006symposium.html

Your Family Disaster Plan Train-the-Trainer Class Offered

Virginia Cooperative Extension in partnership with the Shenandoah County Department of Fire and Rescue will be holding a workshop to train you to teach others how to develop a family disaster plan, what supplies to include in a disaster kit, how to plan for family communication and the steps to take in the event of a disaster. The workshop will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Shenandoah County Government Center. The workshop is free. **To register please call 540-459-6140.**

Port Republic To Host "Gundalow Day"

The Village of Port Republic will be hosting its first annual Gundalow Day on May 20, 2006. The event is co-sponsored by the Pure Water Forum, The Society of Port Republic Preservationists, and JMU's Geographic Science Program. The event will highlight the area's boatbuilding history, archaeology, and music, as well as the South Fork of the Shenandoah River's history, natural history, and ongoing issues. During the day, the active archaeological site of New Haven - a boatbuilding site across the river from Port Republic will be open to the public. A 40 foot bateau typical of those built in the area will be on display and the Port Republic Museum will be open. **For more information contact Sandy Greene at the Headwater Soil and Water Conservation District Office at Sandy.Greene@va.nacdnet.net.**

Lost - American Red Cross Pin: At the Citizen Corps Council Quarterly Meeting at the CSPDC on March 21, 2006 a World War II era Red Cross Pin was lost. This pin holds a lot of sentimental value for its owner. If you happened to find this pin as you were leaving the meeting, **please contact Rebecca Joyce at 540-885-5174 or at rebecca@cspdc.org.**



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Wildfire Safety Tips

15. Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.
16. Observe local regulations regarding vegetative clearances and fire safety equipment requirements.
17. Check your generator and/or hose to be sure it is in good repair.
18. Don't keep combustible materials under decks or elevated porches.
19. Make trellises of non-flammable metal.
20. Have at least two ground-level doors as safety exits.
21. Keep at least two means of escape (either a door/window) in each room.
22. Mark your driveway and access roads clearly.
23. Keep ample turnaround space near your house for fire equipment.
24. Prevent sparks from entering your house by covering vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8".
25. When possible, use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible.

Source: Firewise
<http://www.firewise.org>

May 2, 1929: Virginia's Deadliest Tornado Outbreak

On May 29, 1929 a tornado in our region was part of Virginia's Deadliest Tornado Outbreak," which was part of a larger system of storms that swept across 12 states, leaving more than 200 people injured and approximately 40 people killed in the U.S. Below is an excerpt from Virginia Tornadoes by Barbara McNaught Watson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service detailing the outbreak.

"It has been said that tornadoes do not occur in mountainous areas. This is false. It was a warm May day with a cold front moving in from the west. The first tornado hit Rye Cove in Scott County in extreme southwest Virginia. The elevation of Rye Cove is about 1500 feet and it sits between two ridges that rise another 500 feet above. The tornado struck the school house and the principal described what he saw:

'It was raining at the time, 11:55 a.m., and classes were recessed for noon. About 25 children were in the building, the remainder being on the playground. I was walking down the hall when I saw what looked like a whirlwind coming up the hollow. Trees were swaying and as the whirlwind neared the building, it became a black cloud. It struck the building and I believe I yelled. The next thing I remember, I was standing knee-deep in a pond 75 feet from where the building stood. I was badly shaken up and frightened and surprised that I was able to wade out of the water. Bodies of children were scattered over a wide radius.'

Twelve children and a teacher were killed and 42 more were injured. The school was an oak-framed, well-constructed, two-story building. It contained 10 classrooms and an assembly room. An eyewitness from a nearby hillside saw two clouds rush together about a mile down the valley. They formed the tornado that struck the school just moments later. The school collapsed and pieces were scattered up to 2 miles. The tornado continued on for a few miles, but fortunately, no other communities were in its path. Several buildings in Rye Cove were destroyed. A total of 100 people were injured. ...

... In Bath and Alleghany Counties lies Cowpasture Valley. This valley is at an elevation of 1500 feet and lies between two ridges that rise 1000 feet above the valley. A tornado struck around 6 pm. Property losses in Coronation and Sitlington were great. At least 10 people were injured, but none were killed. An eyewitness watched the tornado form near his home. He described everything within 250 to 800 yards of the tornado's path being destroyed. The postmaster at Covington followed the storm 17 miles. He watched it take out 150 apple trees, lift the roof off a house, and sweep away a barn. In the barn, a woman was milking a cow. She was found some distance from where the barn had stood, under its floor. One edge of the barn floor was resting on a stone wall and she, miraculously, was not injured, nor were the six cows that had been in the barn. Poultry houses were swept away and chickens were found dead and almost featherless. ...

... There were five tornadoes reported on that day. More may have struck remote areas. Twenty-two people were killed and over 150 injured with at least a half a million dollars in damages. Four schools were destroyed; two of which were empty due to the late hour. The severe storms moved northeast into Maryland where at least two more tornadoes struck in four counties. Six people were killed and at least a dozen more injured."

For more information about Virginia tornadoes, check out the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's website at:

<http://www.vaemergency.com/newsroom/history/tornado.cfm>

Hurricane Season Checklist For CERT Members

Hurricane Season starts on June 1st. For CERT members who may be asked to volunteer during and after a storm, here are some things that you can do to prepare. In order to be an effective disaster volunteer it is important to be prepared well ahead of the time you are needed.

☐ Have your family disaster plan completed - including an out of town contact person.

☐ Restock your disaster supply kit with all necessary supplies.

☐ Make sure family members, friends, or neighbors that you would worry about have a plan and supplies.

☐ Have a plan (and back-up plan) and disaster supplies for your pets.

☐ Have your CERT bag packed with things you might need while you volunteer including snacks, a flashlight and extra batteries, a waterproof jacket, medications, contact lense supplies or glasses, etc.

☐ During Hurricane Season watch for storm systems and check your email regularly.



CERT Instructor Train-the-Trainer To Be Offered

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) is offering a Train-the-Trainer Class to train people interested in becoming CERT Instructors. Below are dates and locations of the trainings. If you are interested in attending one of these trainings, please contact Rebecca Joyce at 540-885-5174 or at rebecca@cspdc.org because you need to be referred to VDEM by your local Citizen Corps Coordinator.

Date	Location
March 21 – 22, 2006	Williamsburg, Va The Community Building 401 No. Boundary Street; Williamsburg, VA
May 22 – 23, 2006	Richmond Henrico County Fire Training Center 7701 E. Parham Rd; Richmond, VA
June 6 – 7, 2006	Charlottesville Albemarle County Office Building 5th Street. 1600 5th Street S.W.; Charlottesville, VA
July 25 – 26, 2006	Pulaski County Location TBA
August 15 – 16, 2006	Winchester Timbrook Public Safety Center 231 East Piccadilly Street; Winchester, VA.
September 19 – 20, 2006	Alexandria Fire Training Academy 1108 Jefferson Street; Alexandria, VA

All courses are approved for:

- 14 hours career development for certified law enforcement officers (DCJS)
- 14 category 2 recertification hours for all levels of EMT (OEMS)

Next Shenandoah Valley Project Impact Citizen Corps Council and CERT Quarterly Meetings Scheduled

Tuesday, June 20, 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Citizen Corps Council Quarterly Meeting

Guest Speaker: Darryl Crawford, a planner at the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission will give a presentation entitled, "Demographic Shifts In The Valley: What Will The Next 25 Years Look Like"

Thursday, June 29, 2006, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*
CERT Quarterly Meeting

Guest Speaker: Kenneth Flick, emergency planner with the Central Shenandoah Health District will give a presentation on pandemic flu and bioterrorism.

*Please note change in date and time of CERT Quarterly Meeting